6-23-76

Dear Mr. Lesar,

Harry Wachtel recently informed me of the decision of the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. I assume the case will come up before the Supreme Court in the fall. Could you please apprise me of the reason(s) for the court's decision. It just couldn't have been based on the merits of the case. Was it therefore based on the fact that James Earl Ray's original plea of guilty was concurrent with an agreement that he forego his right of appeal?

I also heard that Ray fired Bernard Fensterwald. Since you obviously don't believe this was some tact by which Ray hoped to continue to draw attention to his case, why did he fire Fensterwald. Fensterwald has clearly fought for Ray's right to a new trial. Did Ray, out of a sense of frustration, mistakenly blame him for his failure to get a new trial. I'd like your views on why Fensterwald was fired + whether you believe there was any justice in this action.

Finally, please send along Harold Weisberg's address which I've misplaced. Weisberg told me he had proof from official files that Ray didn't do the shooting and the FBI, DJ, + local prosecution all knew it. What is this proof + why hasn't it been brought to public attention. Surely the subsequent outcry would force the government to grant Ray a new trial.

Weisberg recommends I try to offer you any help I can. While I'll be working full-time till Labor Day I'd be interested in helping you (free of charge, of course) in any way I can till then. When Sept. comes around I intend to compile my notes + write a paper for Wachtel. If there's any work then relating to this investigation I'll try to find it then.

Let me know if I can help you at all. Tell Weisberg I'll contact him soon but that he should write Wachtel (Apt. 9F, 211 Central Park West, N.Y., N.Y.) direct if he wants interviews with black leaders connected with Kerg. He'd know

better how to contact them. He'd certainly abide by Wisbey conditions (I enclose a copy of the letter so you understand my point). Wachtel knows I'm available to help him if he needs it. You see, I can help Wachtel due to my familarity with the written material concerning the case. I'm not sure if I can be of use to you but I hope so. This case has just caught me + I'd like to get involved extensively. So I'll wait + see.

I almost forgot. What does Wisbey mean when he says "these people might need protection."

Anyway best of luck.

Sincerely

Peter Honerkamp